



Caribbean stylo (*Stylosanthes hamata*) for livestock feed on small-scale farms

Objective

To provide high quality forage for livestock feed in the hot semi-arid tropics and warmer subtropics

Description

- Herbaceous semi-erect perennial that can reach up to 0.75 m high
- Tolerates low soil fertility and adapted to a wide range of soil types, including acidic soil
- Adapted to low rainfall areas and long dry spells
- Tolerance to anthracnose
- Very palatable and tolerates heavy grazing
- Used as permanent pastures, cut and carry green feed, hay or leaf meal

Limits of use

- Performs poorly at higher latitudes and subtropics
- Limited shade tolerance
- Frost sensitive

Management

Field preparation—well prepared seedbed

Establishment—sow at 2–3 kg/ha, either broadcast or in rows 50 cm apart

Fertilizer—apply 100 kg DAP per hectare during establishment

Weeding—weed once after four weeks and again after eight weeks, then competes well with weeds

Harvesting—cut at early flowering and then graze or cut at 4-week intervals to ensure good regrowth

Performance

Expect yield of up to 17 t/ha dry matter in pure stands under ideal conditions. Crude protein levels range from 17–24% in green leaf with lower levels in stems

This information leaflet on livestock feeds and feeding technologies for small-scale farmers is developed through collaboration between ILRI and its partners.

For further information, contact

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